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Barry E. Bretschneider Morrison & Foerster LLP Suite 300 1650 Tysons Boulevard McLean, VA 22102				
EXAMINER				
MCLEAN, NEIL R				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/801,568

Applicant(s)

HASHIMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Neil R. McLean

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Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 March 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-7 and 9-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-7 and 9-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/18/2007
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Inventor's Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. Claims 2-7, and 9-14 are pending in this application.

Claims 1 and 8 have been canceled.

Claims 2-7, and 9-14 have been amended.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1, 8 and 14 were objected to in the previous Office Action because of minor informalities. The Examiner notes that these claims have been amended or canceled. These objections have been withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 3/27/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the

applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 2-6 and 9-13 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ishikawa et al. (US 5,838,833).

Regarding Claim 1: (Canceled)

Regarding Claim 2: (Currently Amended)

The data processing apparatus as recited in claim [[1]] 5, further comprising an attribute discriminator for discriminating the attribute of the data (Area Discriminating Circuit 24; e.g., Column 8, lines 45-49).

Regarding Claim 3: (Currently Amended)

The data processing apparatus as recited in claim [[1]] 5, wherein said controller sets the size of the block depending on the attribute of the data into a size of a page unit or a size of a divisional unit which is a size obtained by dividing the size of the page unit by plural numbers (e.g., Column 12, lines 9-11).

Regarding Claim 4: (Currently Amended)

The data processing apparatus as recited in claim [[1]] 5, wherein said memory stores the compressed data and a management table, and wherein said controller sets the size of the block based on a total capacity of the compressed data and a

management table and a capacity of the memory (Column 7, lines 8-11).

Regarding Claim 5: (Currently Amended)

Ishikawa et al. discloses the data processing apparatus (Figure 1), comprising:
a compressor (Image Compression Device 1 in Figure 3; Column 8, lines 4-10) which
compresses every block of inputted job data into compressed data (Image memory 21 stores, in one page units, the image data DG of original image GF input for image compression. The image data DG stored in image memory 21 are read out in block units by first block allocating circuit 22 and second block allocating circuit 23. That is, the image data DG of original image GF is read out by each domain block BD by the first block allocating circuit 22, and read out by each range block BR by the second block allocating circuit 23, as shown in FIG. 8 and described in Column 8, lines 13-19; See Block Allocating Circuit 22 and Second Block Allocating Circuit 23 in Figure 3);
a memory which stores the compressed data (Image Memory 21 in Figure 3; Column 8, lines 11-12); and
a controller (Area discriminating circuit 24 discriminates the range blocks BR stored in range block memory 232 as shown in Figure 3 and described in Column 8, lines 45-49) which sets a size of the block of the data to be compressed by said compressor depending on an attribute of the data (e.g., Area discrimination is accomplished by determining whether or not and edge area (containing an edge) of the image is included in range block BR as described in Column 12, lines 9-11), wherein the data attribute is color or monochrome.

Regarding Claim 6: (Currently Amended)

Ishikawa et al. discloses the data processing apparatus, comprising:

a compressor (Image Compression Device 1 in Figure 3; Column 8, lines 4-10); which compresses every block of inputted job data into compressed data (Image memory 21 stores, in one page units, the image data DG of original image GF input for image compression. The image data DG stored in image memory 21 are read out in block units by first block allocating circuit 22 and second block allocating circuit 23. That is, the image data DG of original image GF is read out by each domain block BD by the first block allocating circuit 22, and read out by each range block BR by the second block allocating circuit 23, as shown in FIG. 8 and described in Column 8, lines 13-19; See Block Allocating Circuit 22 and Second Block Allocating Circuit 23 in Figure 3);

a memory which stores the compressed data (Image Memory 21 in Figure 3; Column 8, lines 11-12); and

a controller (Area discriminating circuit 24 discriminates the range blocks BR stored in range block memory 232 as shown in Figure 3 and described in Column 8, lines 45-49) which sets a size of the block of the data to be compressed by said compressor depending on an attribute of the data (e.g., Area discrimination is accomplished by determining whether or not an edge area (containing an edge) of the image is included in range block BR as described in Column 12, lines 9-11); wherein the attribute of the data is binary data or multi-valued data.

Regarding Claim 8: (Canceled)

Regarding Claim 9: (Currently Amended)

The data processing method as recited in claim [[8]] 12, further comprising a step of performing attribute discrimination for discriminating the attribute of the data (Area Discriminating Circuit 24; e.g., Column 8, lines 45-49).

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Regarding Claim 10: (Currently Amended)

The data processing method as recited in claim [[8]] 12, wherein the size of the block is set depending on the attribute of the data into a size of a page unit or a size of a divisional unit which is a size obtained by dividing the size of the page unit by plural numbers (e.g., Column 12, lines 9-11).

Regarding Claim 11: (Currently Amended)

The data processing method as recited in claim [[8]] 12, wherein the memory stores the compressed data and a management table, and the size of the block is set based on a total capacity of the compressed data and the management table and a capacity of the memory (Column 7, lines 8-11).

Regarding Claim 12: (Currently Amended)

Ishikawa et al. discloses the data processing method, comprising:
setting a size of every block of data to be compressed by a compressor
depending of an attribute of the data (e.g., Area discrimination is accomplished by determining whether or not and edge area (containing an edge) of the image is included in range block BR as described in Column 12, lines 9-11);

compressing data of an inputted job into a set size of the block by the
compressor; and
storing every block of compressed data into a memory, wherein the attribute of
the data is color or monochrome (e.g., Area discrimination is accomplished by determining whether or not

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and edge area (containing an edge) of the image is included in range block BR as described in Column 12, lines 9-11);

Regarding Claim 13: (Currently Amended)

Ishikawa et al. discloses the data processing method, comprising:
setting a size of every block of data to be compressed by a compressor
depending of an attribute of the data (e.g., Area discrimination is accomplished by determining whether or not and edge area (containing an edge) of the image is included in range block BR as described in Column 12, lines 9-11)
compressing data of an inputted job into a set size of the block by the
compressor (Image Compression Device 1 in Figure 3; Column 8, lines 4-10); and
storing every block of compressed data into a memory, wherein the attribute of the data is binary data or multi-valued data (e.g., Area discrimination is accomplished by determining whether or not and edge area (containing an edge) of the image is included in range block BR as described in Column 12, lines 9-11);

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 7 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa et al. in view of Barnsley et al. (5,065,447).

Regarding Claim 7: (Currently Amended)

Ishikawa et al. discloses the data processing apparatus, comprising:

a compressor which compresses every block of inputted job data into compressed data (Image Compression Device 1 in Figure 3; Column 8, lines 4-10);
a memory which stores the compressed data (Image Memory 21 in Figure 3; Column 8, lines 11-12); and

a controller which sets a size of the block of the data to be compressed by said compressor depending on an attribute of the data, wherein the attribute of the data is a FAX/copy job or another job other than the FAX/copy job (e.g., Area discrimination is accomplished by determining whether or not and edge area (containing an edge) of the image is included in range block BR as described in Column 12, lines 9-11);

Ishikawa et al. discloses all of the limitations recited in Claims 1 and 8.

However, Ishikawa et al. does not disclose expressly wherein the attribute of the data is a FAX/copy job or another job other than the FAX/copy job.

Barnsley et al. discloses wherein the attribute of the data is a FAX/copy job or another job other than the FAX/copy job (Column 2, lines 51-58).

Ishikawa et al. & Barnsley et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor of processing digital data, e.g., image compression.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the fax of Barnsley et al. in the image compression method of Ishikawa et al.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would be to increase processing speed, take less storage, and reduce transmission cost (Barnsley et al.; Column 1, lines 50-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the fax of Barnsley et al. with the image compression method of Ishikawa et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claims 7 and 14).

Regarding Claim 14: (Currently Amended)

Ishikawa et al. discloses the data processing method, comprising:
setting a size of every block of data to be compressed by a compressor
depending of an attribute of the data (e.g., Area discrimination is accomplished by determining whether or not and edge area (containing an edge) of the image is included in range block BR as described in Column 12, lines 9-11);

compressing data of an inputted job into a set size of the block by the
compressor (Image Compression Device 1 in Figure 3; Column 8, lines 4-10); and
storing every block of compressed data into a memory, wherein the attribute of the data is a FAX/copy [[hob]] job or another job other than the FAX/copy job.

Ishikawa et al. discloses all of the limitations recited in Claims 1 and 8.

However, Ishikawa et al. does not disclose expressly wherein the attribute of the data is a FAX/copy job or another job other than the FAX/copy job.

Barnsley et al. discloses wherein the attribute of the data is a FAX/copy job or another job other than the FAX/copy job (Column 2, lines 51-58).

Ishikawa et al. & Barnsley et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor of processing digital data, e.g., image compression.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the fax of Barnsley et al. in the image compression method of Ishikawa et al.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would be to increase processing speed, take less storage, and reduce transmission cost (Barnsley et al.; Column 1, lines 50-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the fax of Barnsley et al. with the image compression method of Ishikawa et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claims 7 and 14).

Examiner Notes

8. The Examiner cites particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that, in preparing responses, the applicant fully considers the references in its entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as

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well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or as disclosed by the Examiner.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Suzuki et al. (US 7,130,072) discloses a multifunction multifunction system applicable to a copying apparatus or a printer, automatic switching of an image processing method and a compression/expansion method for each compressed packet image

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Neil R. McLean whose telephone number is (571)270-1679. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30AM-4:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on 571.272.7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Neil R. McLean/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

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/Twyler L. Haskins/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625